GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

A Hybrid Field-Vesper Sparrow.—Several times during May I was within a few feet, and studied with a glass as long as I chose, a bird that was evidently a cross between the Field Sparrow and the Vesper Sparrow. The general appearance was of the Field Sparrow with the typical head markings and flesh colored bill. The wings were barred as in the Field Sparrow, but the lesser coverts were solid bright bay as with the Vesper, while the tail was distinctly like that of the Vesper Sparrow, having the outer feathers white.—E. A. Doolittle, *Painesville, Ohio.*

The Bald Eagle in Arkansas.—On the morning of August 29, 1928, a friend of mine called me out of a local confectionery, and pointing up, wanted to know what kind of a bird that was, soaring over the valley. A glance was sufficient to tell that it was a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), for the white head and tail flashed in the sunlight like a mirror as he turned. A small crowd soon gathered, and twenty or thirty people watched the bird as it circled over the valley, at a rather low elevation, until after three or four minutes it straightened away to the west, and was soon out of sight. This is the only record for me, and the bird has been reported only three or four times from the Arkansas Ozarks in the past ten years.—J. D. Black, *Winslow, Ark.*

Strangulation of Gulls.—While at Chase Lake, North Dakota, on an expedition of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, during June, 1928, I found several dead Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) which seemed to have died of strangulation. Upon further examination the deaths were found to have been caused by the gulls attempting to swallow whole Richardson's Spermophiles. In all the specimens examined, the spermophiles were caught in the throat, head first, with the hind feet and tail extending out of the mouth, as if the gulls had tried to swallow the mammals head first.

The gulls probably picked up dead spermophiles, as the farmers had been killing them with poisoned oats. The death of the gulls could not have been caused by the poisoned rodents, as in no case was a spermophile even slightly digested, so that undoubtedly the gulls died of strangulation.—E. V. Komarek, *Oak Park, Ill.*

Trapping Juncos and White-throats.—Our yard, this last spring (1927), had many Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow visitors, but we did not succeed in trapping many until we began using the prepared bird seed bought at the stores.

Even so, we were not securing as many as we should until we began setting the traps in the bottom of our fish pond, which had been drained for winter and not yet filled again.

We found that a light litter drawn over some seed scattered over the bottom of the pond enticed the little rascals, who enjoyed scratching like small chickens, and the outside food did not prevent them from entering the traps. Some mornings we had birds in every trap, without exception.—Edward A. Everett, *Waseca, Minn.*

Tactics of the Domestic Pigeon in Evading the Duck Hawk.—On April 12, 1928, while stopping briefly to examine the cliffs at Dauphin, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, where Duck Hawks (*Rhynchodon peregrinus anatum*) live,